

In the Specification:

On page 5, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 15 as follows:

Referring now to FIGS. **1a** to **1d**, a bone plate 10 with a longitudinal axis 12 has a bone-contacting bottom side 14 and a top side 16. Multiple sets 20 of overlapping holes 22 communicate through the plate 10 from the top side 16 to the bottom side 14. The overlapping holes 22 are adapted to receive a bone screw 24 with a head 26 having a thread 30 and, on an opposite end 32, a body having a bone-engaging thread 34 (shown in FIG. 8). Sets 20 of two adjacent, overlapping holes 22 have an offset of a given distance d between centers 35 thereof. The offset defines a necked down portion 37 between the overlapping holes.

On page 7, please amend the third full paragraph, starting on line 10, as follows:

Note that the threaded apertures ~~400~~ 62 used in the invention provide hole centers located at specific locations (as opposed to apertures that are formed as a slot). Use of threads centered at a specific point allows the bone screw to be fixed at a specific location at which the surgeon may judge the bone structure to be best suited to support such a bone screw. Unlike designs using a slot, the apertures ~~400~~ 62 of the invention eliminate wander of the screw in the aperture. This further permits placement at specific locations for buttressing and/or secure fixing in neutral screw loading areas.